

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a mail preparation system. In one aspect the present invention provides a mail preparation system, including: a postage charge dispenser configured to generate postage indicia and account for postage charges; a printer operable to print the postage indicia as generated by the postage charge dispenser on mail items; a display; a controller for driving the display to display a depiction of a postage indicium to be printed on a mail item, the depicted postage indicium including a plurality of data items modifiable by a user, which data items include at least one data item related to postage charge, and being operable to provide data representative of the data items to the postage charge dispenser; a data item selector operable by the user to select any one of the data items in the depicted postage indicium and cause the controller to drive the display to display a plurality of possible item entries for the selected data item; and an item entry selector operable by the user to select one of the possible item entries for the selected data item and cause the controller to drive the display to display a modified depiction of the postage indicium including the selected item entry for the data item. In another aspect the present invention provides a mail preparation system for preparing batches of mail, the system including: a message transmitter operable to transmit messages relating to batches of mail to a remote data center; a message receiver for receiving messages from the remote data center as an acknowledgement in reply to each transmitted message; a display for displaying message areas corresponding to each transmitted message; and a controller for operating the display to display the message areas with a first visual appearance on transmission of the respective messages to the remote data center and a second, different visual appearance on receipt of the respective messages from the remote data center.